

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00  
CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01  
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O 201722Z JUL 77  
FM USMISSION NATO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4980  
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
USNMR SHAPE BE  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R E T NATO 07029

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, GR, TU, MARR  
SUBJECT: GREEK PARTICIPATION IN EXERCISE DISPLAY  
DETERMINATION

REF: (A) STATE 163756 DTG 140023Z JUL 77, (B) USNATO 6879  
DTG 160929Z JUL 77

SUMMARY: WE BELIEVE ANY US REACTION TO THE GREEK DEMARCHE  
ON DISPLAY DETERMINATION (REF A) SHOULD BE ROUTINELY  
TRANSMITTED TO THE GREEKS IN WASHINGTON AND SUGGEST BELOW  
A POSSIBLE APPROACH TO TAKE WITH THE GREEKS. THE GREEKS  
HAVE ALSO CONTACTED SYG LUNS AND SACEUR REGARDING DISPLAY  
DETERMINATION, AND, AS WASHINGTON IS AWARE, EFFORTS ARE  
BEING MADE AT SHAPE TO RESOLVE THE COMMAND AND CONTROL  
PROBLEMS SURROUNDING THE EXERCISE. WE BELIEVE THE DIS-  
CUSSIONS OF GREEK PARTICIPATION SHOULD CONTINUE AT THE  
MILITARY LEVEL FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE AND THAT THE US  
SHOULD ATTEMPT TO DEFLECT ANY GREEK EFFORTS TO PUT US IN  
THE MIDDLE. END SUMMARY.

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1. THE GREEKS HAVE MADE DEMARCHES ON EXERCISE DISPLAY  
DETERMINATION TO SACEUR AND SYG LUNS, AS WELL AS TO STATE  
DEPARTMENT OFFICERS IN WASHINGTON. ACCORDING TO INTER-  
NATIONAL STAFF SOURCES, THE GREEK AMBASSADOR'S APPROACH  
TO LUNS WAS DESIGNED ESSENTIALLY TO INFORM THE SYG OF THE  
GREEK POSITION. WHILE REGRETTING THAT THE SITUATION HAD

REACHED A POINT AT WHICH GREEK NATIONAL HONOR HAD BECOME ENGAGED, LUNS WAS UNCERTAIN AS TO WHAT TO DO NEXT.

2. WE BELIEVE THAT ANY US RESPONSE TO THE GREEKS SHOULD BE MADE IN WASHINGTON BUT WITHOUT AN ATTEMPT TO GO INTO THE DETAILS OF THE ARGUMENTS PRESENTED IN THE DEMARCHES OF JULY 11. IN ADDITION, WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT (A) OUR REACTION BE KEPT AS LOW KEY AS POSSIBLE, (B) WE EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE WE PLACE ON THE NEED FOR A VIABLE EXERCISE PROGRAM IN ORDER FOR NATO COMMANDERS TO MAINTAIN ADEQUATE OPERATIONAL READINESS, (C) WE STRESS THE DETERRENT VALUE INHERENT IN VISIBLE READINESS DEMONSTRATED BY AN EFFECTIVE EXERCISE PROGRAM WITH FULL ALLIANCE PARTICIPATION. THE GREEKS MAY SEEK TO MAKE THIS A US PROBLEM RATHER THAN A NATO ONE: AND WE SHOULD AVOID BEING PUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS PARTICULAR ARGUMENT.

3. THE ISSUE OF GREEK PARTICIPATION IN THE EXERCISE HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF ACTIVE CONSULTATION FOR SOME TIME AMONG NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES AND THE POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY. SHAPE AND CINCSOUTH SHOULD NORMALLY WORK OUT THE FINAL COMMAND AND CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS. WE SUGGEST THAT THIS QUESTION BE KEPT OUT OF THE POLITICAL ARENA HERE AT NATO UNTIL POSSIBILITIES OF DIALOGUE THROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS HAVE BEEN EXHAUSTED.

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4. IT IS WORTH RECALLING THAT, ALTHOUGH THE GREEKS HAVE SEVERAL TIMES HINTED DURING THE PLANNING STAGE THAT THEY WOULD PARTICIPATE IN PREVIOUS EXERCISES, THEY HAVE NOT PARTICIPATED IN A NATO EXERCISE SINCE WITHDRAWING FROM THE NATO INTEGRATED MILITARY STRUCTURE IN 1974. ON EACH OF THESE EARLIER OCCASIONS, THE GREEKS THREATENED THAT FAILURE TO ABIDE BY THEIR CONDITIONS WOULD COMPLICATE GREEK-NATO NEGOTIATIONS. IN ITS RESPONSE TO NATO IN JANUARY 1977 (USNATO 470-DTG 271800 JAN 77), GREECE INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE ON A CONDITIONAL BASIS FOLLOWING A GOVERNMENTAL DECISION ON EACH SEPARATE CASE. SUCH CONDITIONS MAKE IT NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO PLAN EXERCISES OF THIS SCOPE IN A TIMELY MANNER. MNCS MUST KNOW WHAT FORCES WILL PARTICIPATE IN EXERCISES FROM THE INITIAL PLANNING STAGES THROUGH FINAL EXECUTION.

5. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE FRG, UK AND ITALIAN PERMREPS HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF SOME OF THE ELEMENTS OF THIS PROBLEM. WE BELIEVE THE US SHOULD INFORM THESE THREE KEY ALLIES, AND SYG LUNS, OF DEVELOPMENTS, SUCH AS THE US-GREEK CONTACTS SO THAT COLLECTIVELY WE CAN BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS

THE MATTER AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL SHOULD IT BECOME NECESSARY.

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